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W. C. Speirs,
Medical Officer of Health,
REETH. Tel: Reeth 275.

J. Medcalfe,
Sanitary Officer,
REETH. Tel: Reeth 223.

MINISTRY OF HEALTH

May, 1959.

Gentlemen,

The following is my Report for the year 1958. The statistics are based on a population of 1,970 persons, the same as for 1957. The area of the district is 74,566 acres or 116 square miles. The density is therefore, 17 persons to a square mile.

VITAL STATISTICS

	Male	Female	Total	Rate per 1,000 of population
Deaths	7	13	20	10.15
Live Births	12	13	25	12.68
Still Births	-	1	1	40 per 1,000 Live Births
Illegitimate Births	-	1	1	4 per cent Live Births
Infant Mortality	-	-	-	
Neo. Natal	-	-	-	
Maternal deaths	-	-	-	

Deaths from Puerperal Causes	Nil
Deaths from Cancer	3
Deaths from Measles	Nil
Deaths from Whooping Cough	Nil
Deaths from Diarrhoea (under two years)	Nil

The Home Help Service is useful in certain areas, but the helpers are not able to give as much time to the cases as some of them require.

The National Health Service works quite well but the General Practitioners have much more to do than before 1948. They have longer Surgery hours.

FOOD The food question causes no anxiety. The shops are clean, well stocked and there have been no prosecutions.

SUMMARY OF DEATHS

	Male	Female	Total
Malignant disease	2	1	3
Vascular lesions Nervous System	2	2	4
Coronary disease and Angina	1	2	3
Other Heart disease	2	6	8
Ill defined disease . ..	-	1	1
Accidental death	-	1	1
	7	13	20

NOTIFICATIONS

	Male	Female	Total
Pneumonia	1	1	2
Measles	-	1	1
	1	2	3

The water supply to the schools still shows that Foecal Bacilli find their way into the water, e.g.

30th June	Gunnerside Methodist	35 per ML
30th June	Keld School	25 per ML
22nd May	Reeth School	25 per ML
22nd May	Keld School	50 per ML
22nd May	Gunnerside Methodist	13 per ML

In the Wet Season the contamination is greater, as the gathering grounds are grazed by cattle and sheep.

TUBERCULOSIS Only one fresh case of Tuberculosis was notified during 1958 - an adult male of 58 years, who has a pulmonary lesion.

The water supply remains as in previous years as no financial assistance is forthcoming from any source.

I remain,

Yours truly,

W. C SPEIRS

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REETH RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR AND SURVEYOR

To the Chairman and Members of the Reeth Rural District Council.

Mr. Chairman and Gentlemen,

I beg to submit my Annual Report as Public Health Inspector and Surveyor for the District, year ending, 31st December, 1958.

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA

WATER SUPPLY

Over the past few years it has unfortunately been necessary to commence the Annual Report in a negative tone in regard to water supplies and the year 1958 is no exception - no new schemes have been implemented. As each year passes the position regarding existing supplies must worsen and being in day to day contact with the deficiences gives rise to a deep concern and frustration at the lack of progress. There are temporary overhead pipes crossing the River Swale at Keld and the Arkle Beck at Reeth. These emergency supplies have now been in use for a period of ten years. To prevent the main freezing over the River Swale, house taps must be kept running continuously during the winter months. Again, during severe frosts many houses throughout the district are without water, the private branches, which are in many instances a considerable distance from the Council mains freezing up. The only remedy is for the Council to provide mains at an adequate depth and close to the curtilage of the houses. This, would also prevent waste and facilitate waste detection.

Underground pipes throughout the area are generally in a very poor condition, as evidenced when repairs have been necessary. This patching up cannot go on indefinitely and to renew the existing mains is not advisable as, during droughty periods, the supplies are insufficient to meet the demand and all are subject to surface water contamination during heavy rains. In addition the domestic and agricultural demand is increasing, many new connections having been approved since the last droughty year, 1955.

During the year under review the report on the Water Supply Survey for the area has been issued to Councils in the North Riding, the Reeth Rural District to form part of what is termed "The Dales Water Board," comprising of seven authorities:-

Richmond Corporation
Aysgarth Rural District Council
Bedale Rural District Council
Leyburn Rural District Council
Masham Rural District Council
Reeth Rural District Council
Richmond Rural District Council

The report outlines water supply schemes for the Reeth Rural District following on the lines of those already submitted to the Ministry of Housing and Local Government.

WATER ANALYSIS

Existing supplies	24 - Class 4	2 - Class 1
Fremington Edge Springs	6 - Class 4	8 - Class 1
Private supplies	4 - Class 4	4 - Class 1
Other springs	1 - Class 4	1 - Class 1

GUNNERSIDE WATER

Improvements to strengthen the storage tank at Modesty, the Tender of W. Cherry for £35 was accepted.

REETH WATER

Improvements and protection of Calva Springs, the Tender of P. Calvert for £37 17s. 0d. was accepted. Continued wet weather prevented the carrying out of this work during the year.

HEALAUGH WATER

250 yards of defective 1" main below the Moorcock tank was renewed in "Alkathene" Tubing.

SEWERAGE

No new schemes of sewerage or sewerage disposal were commenced during the year.

PUBLIC CLEANSING

The service has been maintained during the year, disposal being at Feetham Wood and Low Level tips, the latter for Arkengarthdale only. The Feetham Wood tip is rapidly nearing completion and efforts are being made to acquire a new site. A proposed site at Stolerton Field No. 98 was submitted to the Area Planning Board for Planning Permission, which body approved the proposal but the National Parks Committee turned down the application. This is now subject to Appeal.

Objections to the use of the site have been received from such outside bodies as Camping Associations, Ramblers and Youth Hostels. It is felt that these bodies are easily persuaded to lodge their objections without being aware of the problem faced by the Rural District Council. The whole of the area is within a National Park and Councils are fully conscious of the necessity to preserve the amenities and any site chosen has only been after prolonged and careful investigation.

PUBLIC CONVENIENCES

Caretakers have now been obtained for the Grinton and Low Row conveniences, those at Reeth and Muker are attended by the employees on the Refuse Collection - daily at Reeth and once a week at Muker.

Tenders have been accepted for the proposed conveniences at Gunnerside, which now awaits final sanction from the Ministry of Housing and Local Government.

CLOSET ACCOMMODATION

Conversion from dry closets to W.C.'s	23
New drainage to houses. Length in yards	436
Test of existing drains	42
No. of houses with W.C.'s	758
No. of houses with dry system	225
No. of houses connected to Council sewers	349

HOUSING

Houses in Clearance Areas.	Nil
Unfit houses made fit after Informal Action.	35
Unfit houses made fit after Formal Action.	Nil
Unfit houses now occupied and subject to Demolition Order.	1
Unfit houses now vacant and subject to an undertaking not to be used for human habitition.	2

RENT ACT 1957

Applications for Certificates of Disrepair	Nil

HOUSING SURVEY

Number of houses in district	893
Class 1	77
Class 2	521
Class 3	280
Class 5	15

HOUSING ACT 1949 - IMPROVEMENT GRANTS

Number of applications	8
Number approved	5
Cost of "Approved Expenses"	£2,811
Total of Grants offered	£868

In all cases new Bathrooms and internal W.C.'s were provided.

HOUSING IMPROVEMENTS WITHOUT GRANT AID

New Bathrooms	10
W.C.'s	18
Internal piped water	6
Hot water systems	12
Additional bedroom accommodation	1
Improvements to Kitchens	7
New drainage	18

INSPECTION OF DWELLING HOUSES DURING THE YEAR

1.	(a) Total number of houses inspected during the year for housing defects (Public Health or Housing Acts)	116
	(b) Number of inspections made for the purpose	197
2.	(a) Number of houses (exclusive of those referred to under prece ding sub-head) found not in all respects reasonably fit for habitation	110
	(b) Number of houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for habitation	2
3.	Remedy of defects without service of formal notice	
	Number of houses made fit in consequence of informal action by the local authority or their officers	35
4.	Action under statutory powers during the year	
	(a) Proceedings under the Housing Acts in relation to individual unfit houses	Nil
	(b) Statutory proceedings under the Public Health Act	Nil
	(c) Proceedings under the Housing Acts for the Demolition of Individual Unfit Houses	Nil
	(d) Number of houses which were demolished in pursuance Demolition Orders	Nil

Housing Act, 1936 - Part IV - Overcrowding

No overcrowding in the area

RODENT CONTROL

No 'major' infestations have had to be dealt with during the year. 'minor' infestations to houses have been sucessfully dealt with.

Council Refuse Tips and Sewage Works are subject to regular treatment by Council workmen. Permanent baiting is carried on at Feetham Wood Tip, together with quick acting poisons at intervals.

FOOD

Number and Type of Food Premises in the Area

Slaughterhouses	2	Retail Butchers shops	2
Butchers vans retailing meat	4	Premises Registered for the Preparation of Cooked Meats	5
Ice Cream Manufacturers	2	Premises Registered for the sale of Ice Cream	14
"Pre-packed"	12	Cafes	10
Bakeries	5	Retail Vans	3
General Dealers, Retail Food Shops	17	Youth Hostels	2
Vans retailing Wet Fish	1	Boarding Houses	26
Private Hotels	5	Licensed Premises	10

Registered Dairies

There are no premises registered with the Local Authority milk retailed being from Producer Retailers.

Inspection of Registered Food Premises

Cooked Meat Preparation Premises	140
Ice Cream manufacturers	16
Ice Cream Sale Shops	56

The premises where cooked meats are prepared are structurally satisfactory and the business conducted in a hygienic manner. The two manufacturers of Ice Cream use only the "cold mix". Other retail sale shops trade only in the "Pre-packed" article.

Food Hygiene - Educational

No educational schemes or clean food guilds have been organised in the area.

Disposal of Condemed Food

The quantity involved has again been negligible - in slaughterhouses, 10 bovine livers affected with cirrhosis sufficient for complete condemnation and a small percentage only partially affected, destroyed by burning. Tinned foods have been opened and the contents buried.

No special examination of a consignment of food has been necessary.

FOOD cont.

Ice Cream (Heat Treatment, etc.,) Regulations 1947-52

No heat treatment process in the area.

Food Hygiene Regulations 1955-56

Retail Food Shops

In all cases these are 'family shops' with dwelling houses attached. Wash hand basins, soap and towels are conveniently available between the W.C. and the shop and hot and cold water immediately adjoining the shop on the house premises.

The two butchers shops both have separate facilities apart from the house.

The butchers and grocers retail vans are provided with soap and towels for use by arrangement with householders in each village and hamlet.

In all cases, first aid equipment is kept handy.

Licensed Premises

There are now 10 licensed premises within the area as compared with 11 previously, one having been closed because of lack of toilet and washing accommodation.

Eight have sinks fitted with hot and cold water at the bar and the other two have these facilities easily available.

Routine inspections carried out show that in all cases the business in carried on in a satisfactory manner.

MEAT INSPECTION

	Cattle	Cows	Calves	Sheep	Pigs	Horses
Number killed	37	44	-	552	90	-
Number inspected	37	44	-	458	90	-
All diseases except Tuberculosis and C. Bovis. Whole carcases condemed	-	-	-	-	-	-
Parts of Carcase or Organs	6	13	-	37	-	-
Percentage	20%	23%	-	9%	-	-
Tuberculosis only whole carcases	-	-	-	-	-	-
Part of carcase or organs	-	-	-	-	-	-
Cysticcerus Bovis	-	-	-	-	-	-

Number of meat inspection visits 134
Total weight involved 39 Tons
Weight condemed (consisting of offal only) 1 cwt. 9 lbs.
Main causes of condemnations -
Bovine livers affected with cirrhosis.

SCHOOLS

Preparations and serving of school meals in the area has been carried on with proper regard to hygiene. At Reeth School filters have been fitted to the taps for drinking purposes, the water being subject to surface pollution.

SCHOOLS cont.

Toilet accommodation has been well maintained.

FACTORIES

Routine inspections are carried out. No action under Part I of the Act has been necessary.

SHOPS ACT

Routine inspections show the shops conducted with regard to the Health provisions of this Act.

TENTS VANS AND SHEDS

There is no increase in the number of these dwellings during the year.

NUISANCES

Inspection for nuisances only	39
Nuisances found	27
Number needed abatement	27
Number abated following informal action	27

GENERAL INSPECTIONS

Drainage work in progress	97	Schools	16
Complaints investigated	39	Refuse Collection	43
Public Conveniences	62	Sewage Works	23
Factories	29	Council Water Undertakings	62
Housing Improvements	284	Petroleum Regs.	18
Licensed Premises	52	Building Byelaws	284
Catering Establishments	49	Bakehouses	33
Food Hygiene Reg.	243	Shops Act	126
Registered Premises	211	Miscellaneous	86
Rodent Control	64		

CONCLUSION

I have pleasure in again recording my thanks to the Council, to the Medical Officer of Health and to the Clerk of the Council, for the courtesy and assistance extended to me during the year.

I am, Mr. Chairman and Gentlemen,

Your obedient servant,

John O. McCaulle

Public Health Inspector and Surveyor.